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*Argentina - gen*  
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Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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WIACT/IMMEDIATE RIO DE JANEIRO WIACT

IMMEDIATE BUENOS AIRES

RIO FOR GENERAL GOODPASTER

E.O. 11652:GDS 1/26/80 (ADAMS, MADISON M.)

TAGS: EAGR, EEWI, UR, AR

SUBJECT: YOUR CONSULTATIONS IN ARGENTINA

REF: 80 RIO DE JANEIRO 313

MMA

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RD

5. FOLLOWING IS PROPOSED DEPARTMENT PRESS GUIDANCE WHICH IS IN CLEARANCE PROCESS FOR MONDAY PRESS BRIEFING. REQUEST YOUR COMMENTS BY 008 1/28.

BEGIN TEXT:

Q: WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSESSMENT OF THE SUCCESS OF GENERAL GOODPASTER'S MISSION TO ARGENTINA?

A: WE ARE PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE MISSION. ~~OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE IS THE AGREEMENT BY~~ *Both parties agreed* BOTH COUNTRIES THAT ABRUPT ALTERATIONS OF ARGENTINA'S REGULAR TRADE FLOWS WOULD BE DISADVANTAGEOUS, AND THAT WE WILL BE CONTINUING OUR CONSULTATIONS AND MAINTAINING AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON INTERNATIONAL GRAIN MARKETS.

Q: DOES THAT MEAN THAT ARGENTINE GRAIN SHIPMENTS TO THE USSR WILL BE RESTRICTED?

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2

Q: THAT DEPENDS ON THE ATTITUDE OF ARGENTINA'S TRADING PARTNERS. ARGENTINA HAS STATED THAT IT WISHES TO MAINTAIN ITS TRADITIONAL MARKETS AND THAT COOPERATION OF ITS TRADE PARTNERS IS NECESSARY TO DO THIS. WE HOPE THOSE PARTNERS WILL NOT SEEK TO DIVERT ARGENTINE GRAINS DESTINED FOR THEIR OWN USE TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

Q: WHAT, PRECISELY, IS THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA GOING TO DO?

A: WE BELIEVE THAT ARGENTINA'S ACTIONS ARE A MATTER FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA TO ADDRESS.

Q: WHAT KIND OF PROGRESS WAS ACHIEVED IN IMPROVING US-ARGENTINE BILATERAL RELATIONS?

A: WE HOPE GENERAL GOODPASTER'S VISIT WILL MARK THE BEGINNING OF A NEW SPIRIT IN US-ARGENTINE BILATERAL RELATIONS. WE HOPE TO MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN THAT RELATIONSHIP THROUGH ADDITIONAL CONSULTATIONS.

Q: WHAT SPECIFICALLY WAS DISCUSSED?

A: WE REVIEWED A NUMBER OF ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN, INCLUDING THE SOVIET INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR BOTH ARGENTINA AND THE UNITED STATES. WE ALSO EXCHANGED VIEWS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, MILITARY RELATIONS, AND NUCLEAR ISSUES.

Q: DOES THAT MEAN THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS SOFTENED ITS POSITION ON ARGENTINA ON HUMAN RIGHTS?

*A* No. PRESIDENT CARTER SAID IN HIS STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS, THE SUPPORT AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES IS AN ESSENTIAL FACTOR IN US FOREIGN POLICY. WE WILL NOT COMPROMISE ON THAT POLICY. WE HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT GENERAL GOODPASTER'S VISIT, AND FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONSULTATIONS, WILL ACHIEVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS IN THAT AREA, AND THAT IMPROVEMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARGENTINA WILL CONTINUE.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE RESUMPTION OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND SALES?

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3

Q: THAT, OF COURSE, IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. HOWEVER, IN LIGHT OF THE EXISTING SOVIET THREAT TO WORLD PEACE, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO INCREASE OUR CONSULTATIONS ON MATTERS INVOLVING THE SECURITY OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

Q: HAS THERE BEEN ANY CHANGE IN THE US POSITION TOWARD ARGENTINA ON NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION?

A: BOTH THE US AND THE ARGENTINE POSITIONS ON THIS SUBJECT HAVE BEEN STATED PREVIOUSLY. THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THESE POSITIONS. WE HOPE, HOWEVER, TO CONTINUE PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS IN THIS AREA.

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